

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE
STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT.

1 WHEREAS, Act 247, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, authorizes
2 the counties to levy, by ordinance adopted no later than
3 December 31, 2005, a county surcharge on the state general
4 excise tax to fund public transportation systems; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Council of the City and County of
7 Honolulu adopted ordinance No. 05-27, which established the one-
8 half per cent general excise tax surcharge for the Honolulu rail
9 transit project; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 2010, voters approved an amendment to the
12 Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu to create the
13 Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation is
16 a semi-autonomous public transit authority responsible for the
17 planning, construction, operation, and extension of the rail
18 system; and
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20 WHEREAS, the initial section of the rail system, from
21 Kapolei to Aloha Stadium, is scheduled to open in 2017, and the
22 entire rail system is expected to be fully operational in 2019;
23 now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
27 that the Auditor is requested to convene a working group to
28 examine the status and progress of the Honolulu rail transit
29 project; and
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following persons or their representatives are requested to be members of the working group:

- (1) The Auditor, who shall serve as the chairperson of the working group;
- (2) A representative from the Office of the Governor;
- (3) The Director of Finance;
- (4) The Director of Transportation;
- (5) The President of the Senate;
- (6) The Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (7) The Chairperson of the Council on Revenues; and
- (8) One member representing each county, to be appointed by the mayor of each respective county; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to:

- (1) Examine current sources of funding for the rail system; and
- (2) Consider the feasibility of using alternative sources of funding, as opposed to extending, making permanent, or increasing the one-half per cent general excise tax surcharge currently collected for the Honolulu rail transit project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Auditor, Director of Finance, Director of Transportation, President of the Senate,



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1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the
2 Council on Revenues, and the Mayor of each county.
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OFFERED BY: Clarence W. Wicks

